



MORE disappointments!

Marie Smith

to:

Annette Ramirez, Catrina Christensen

06/06/2013 11:50 PM

Hide Details

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>

To: Annette Ramirez <aramirez@co.slo.ca.us>, Catrina Christensen <cchristensen@co.slo.ca.us>

19 Attachments

x-3.jpg page1image384.png page2image384.png owls by Erika SP East 2012.jpg image001.jpeg Sweet Springs 139.jpeg Sweet Springs 45.jpeg
 P1080043.jpeg P1080110.jpeg P1080301.jpeg P1060287.jpeg P1080196.jpeg P1080095.jpeg P1090350.jpeg acacia before.jpeg acacia after 1.jpeg
 acacia after 2.jpeg P1080237.jpeg P1080235.jpeg

reference: <http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=2222>

Hello Catrina and Annette!

Again the reason I am so concerned about correspondence not showing up correctly, or not at all, is the fact that these documents may influence the decisions made about nature. I was not aware of the following problems until now!

When I went to the website

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=2222>

to see what was posted for the 6/4/13 Board of Supervisors meeting, I was shocked to find an important omission and also that the pictures that I had submitted in previous email documents **IN COLOR** were now black and white and not even identifiable. I am forwarding them below.

* 1. at the top of the page

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=2222>

there was an important omission, a missing piece after the words "for parcel #074-229-0009"

Maybe it was missing because it was a tiff format?

Here are the missing words in jpeg format:

2. PLEASE PROVIDE WATER AND SEWER WILL-SERVE LETTERS. A WILL-SERVE IS NEEDED, WE CANNOT PROCEED WITHOUT A WILL-SERVE.

NOTE: OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT INDICATES THAT THERE ARE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CULTURAL RESOURCES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, WETLANDS, DRAINAGE, AND TRAFFIC. THERE IS A HIGH LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL BE REQUIRING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THIS APPLICATION.

the page that is missing the words:



comment for the March 1 meeting: Sweet Springs Nature Preserve is a Sanctuary!

Marie Smith to: Kerry Brown

02/03/2013 08:05 PM

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>
To: Kerry Brown <KBrown@co.slo.ca.us>

Hi Kerry,

Could you please include this email in the comments for the March 1, 2013 hearing.

At the beginning of this project it was stated that there was a high likelihood that an EIR was going to be required. Here is the statement in the DRC2011-00013 application on page 2 of the Parcel Summary Report for Parcel #074-229-009:

yet, now in the announcement about the hearing (the underlines are mine) there is the statement:

The Environmental Coordinator, after completion of the initial study, finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not necessary. Therefore, a Negative Declaration (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and CA Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) has been issued on December 27, 2012 for this project.

my comment about this: Relying on an initial study does not sound like it was done "in depth". I am concerned that does not reflect the significance of this property. Sweet Springs Nature Preserve East is part of an oasis, an established sanctuary located on the Pacific Flyway, adjacent to a National Estuary and in the middle of a busy community.

At this point in time protection of this established ecosystem is even more critical because of the unknown side effects on nature due to sudden major changes related to the LO sewer. Examples of the ongoing changes which force nature to move from one area to another in the flight/fight for survival are: daily air, noise and physical disturbances during the major construction activities, changes in landscapes including the removal of trees and bushes as we install our laterals and sewer facilities (i.e.: the major changes in the Broderson recharge area) and the changes in ground water levels. Ground water changes: previously the town was "watered" evenly from the leach fields of the septic systems. We are going to "shut off" that water and relocate it (after treatment) to a few locations. Because of the complex geological clay lens layers under Los Osos, we do not

know for sure how the water will flow. The impact of this action on the plants, trees, the Estuary Fringe and associated life-forms is unknown.

Even now, it is my understanding that an investigation is underway to figure out how to truly protect the birds, butterflies, insects, mammals, and other wildlife that presently are dependent on Sweet Springs. Each section of Sweet Springs is important and it is all inter-connected. I believe, to say "go ahead", before decisions are made about how to best protect Sweet Springs and the wildlife that lives there year-round or the birds, butterflies and insects that visit and depend on it during part of the year for sanctuary, e.g. survival, would be a mistake.

Even though the removal of the eucalyptus trees are no longer in the present application, the area under them and the trees themselves are part of the total picture. The 1,092 signatures against their removal reflect the awareness of many people that this area should not be treated in a piecemeal fashion: this is a truly amazing established ecosystem!

Please, everyone, respect and protect this special Sanctuary!

Marie Smith

Los Osos

* 2. below are the pictures in color so that you can see the difference between these 3 emails and how they were posted on:
<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/2222/QXR0YWNoZWVudF81LnBkZg==/12/n/15514.doc>

These are the emails that I sent:

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>
Subject: 2 pictures by others 2012 in Sweet Springs East
Date: February 3, 2013 10:40:44 PM PST
To: Kerry Brown <KBrown@co.slo.ca.us>



photo by Erika Odencrants Peterson
two owls in Sweet Springs East 2012



photo by Ybi Van Ekeren
two deer in Sweet Springs East 2012

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>
Subject: my pictures/experiences
Date: February 3, 2013 10:40:33 PM PST
To: Kerry Brown <KBrown@co.slo.ca.us>

NO PICTURE OF BUT:

>I have seen birds fly out of the heavy grasses near the north area of Sweet Springs East 2012.

>I have seen and heard hundreds of birds in the tree tops in Sweet Springs East 2012.

>The following was part of my experience in the spring of 2012 when I visited Sweet Springs with Dennis Sheridan and saw an abundance of Monarch Butterflies in East Sweet Springs:

My awareness especially "perked up" this spring when I was talking to a visiting couple about the hundreds of bird sounds above us. They in particular were interested in a Rufus hummingbird which comes through our area and uses these trees for resting & the tree flower's nectar for energy before moving on. The woman pointed out the new plants that hummingbirds would eventually enjoy and then to the immense foliage in the tree tops - the size comparison brought home the reality: we cannot replace the trees - what we can do is grow the natives in the open areas to increase the variety of habitat available for them and other species. I have also enjoyed the increase in Monarch Butterflies this year (they were scarce the past few years when before that they were here in great numbers)

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the following are photos by Marie Smith:



Bees like Eucalyptus trees too! This was taken of the eucalyptus tree on Ramona & Broderson in 2009, before the lower branches were trimmed. Bees, like the Monarchs, are also having a rough time surviving in the present day.



Picture of turtle was taken in 2002 in central sweet springs.

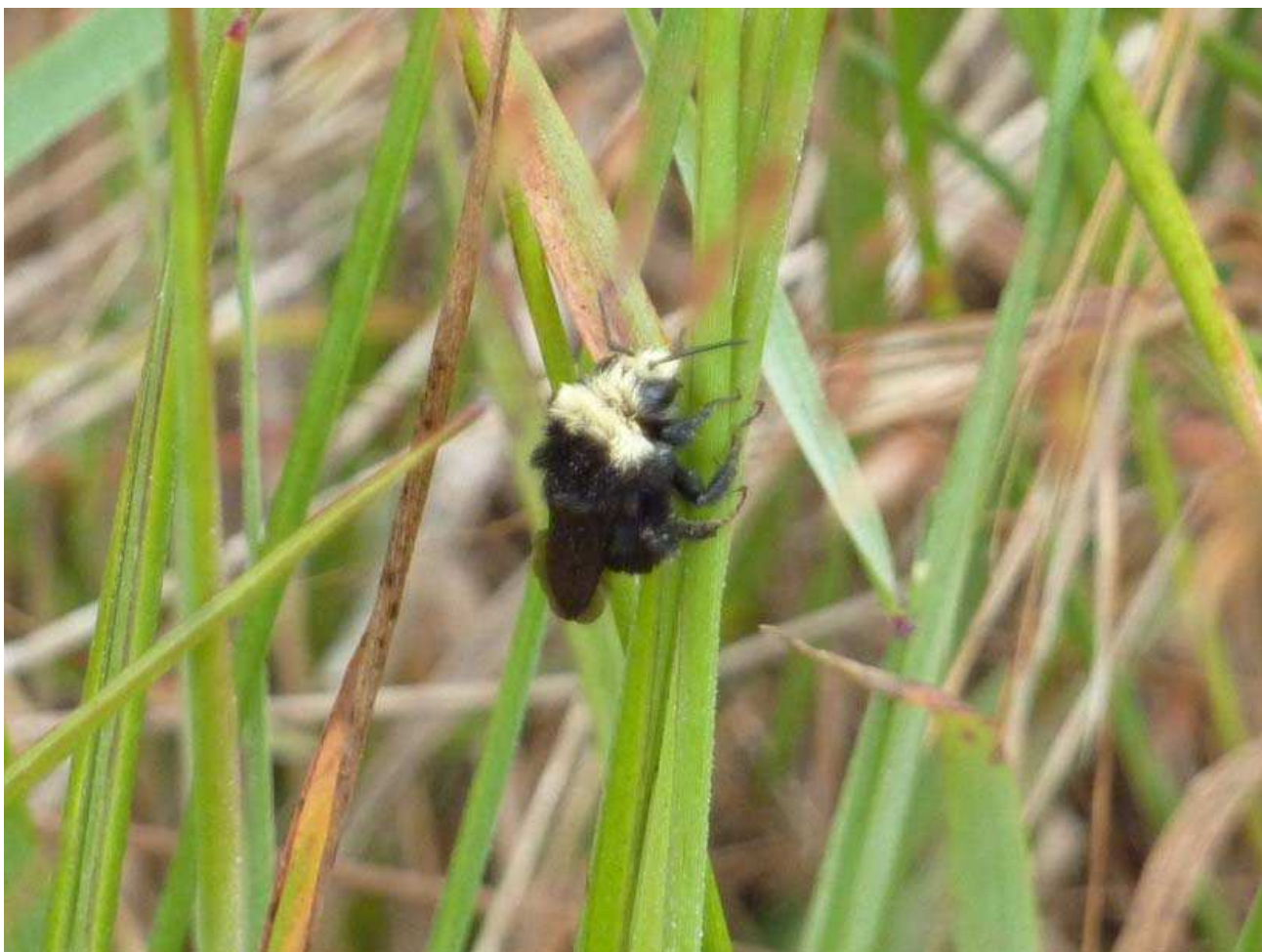
* I am including the picture above and the following pictures because, I believe, that one of the reasons that nature has had a rough time is the "cleaning up of the areas on the ground". The bushes, grasses, plants, and tree debris provide moisture, food and hiding places for the smaller critters, their eggs and babies. These hiding places help protect them from dogs, racoons, other wildlife and shelter from the strong winds which come through this area.



monarch on grass at Sweet Springs East 2012



swallowtail butterfly on grass at Sweet Springs East 2012



bee on grass at Sweet Springs East 2012



bees in log at Sweet Springs East 2012



honeycomb nest at Sweet Springs East 2012



I have a video of a squirrel in the very top of the eucalyptus tree on the east side, but it cannot be sent because it is too large of a file. at Sweet Springs East 2012



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two deer at dusk at Sweet Springs East 2012

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>
Subject: removal of Acacia 2012
Date: February 3, 2013 10:40:53 PM PST
To: Kerry Brown <KBrown@co.slo.ca.us>

I am sending this, not to cause problems, but because it is part of the history:
This acacia, removed in 2012, was located in Sweet Springs Nature Preserve East. The house in the background is on the corner of 3rd Street and Pismo Ave. The acacia provided some screening for nature and people within Sweet Springs. Deer, monarch butterflies and hummingbird were seen near here.

An experience at my home : I also had an acacia where the limb broke, it grew sideways and it still thrived. A personal experience I had with mine: I saw a hummingbird land on my long green leafed acacia, point his peak upward and "freeze" (sleep) there all night!

Before:



After:



behind the other fallen tree log



these shows cut leaves and branches to help identify it :





Fw: comment for June 4 Board of Supervisor meeting , hearing item #35
Annette Ramirez to: Catrina Christensen

06/07/2013 08:49 AM

Item #35 Meeting Date: 6/4/13
Presented By: Marie Smith
Received: Prior to Meeting
Posted to Web: 6/7/2013
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Annette Ramirez | Deputy Clerk-Recorder | San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder
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Telephone: (805) 781-5145 | Fax: (805) 781-1111 | Website: www.SLOvote.com
www.facebook.com/slocountyclerkrec | www.twitter.com/slocountyclerk
----- Forwarded by Annette Ramirez/ClerkRec/COSLO on 06/07/2013 08:49 AM -----

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>
To: Annette <aramirez@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 06/04/2013 03:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: comment for June 4 Board of Supervisor meeting, hearing item #35

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marie Smith <mailmarie@charter.net>

Subject: comment for June 4 Board of Supervisor meeting, hearing item #35

Date: June 1, 2013 3:21:42 AM PDT

To: Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, Adam Hill <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, Paul Teixeira <pteixeira@co.slo.ca.us>, Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, Kerry Brown <KBrown@co.slo.ca.us>

Hello!

Even if I am not able to attend the June 4, 2013 meeting, please consider my comments below:

Our actions on any part of the environment start a domino effect for nature: creatures, who are just trying to exist, are forced to move from place to place and survival of the fittest is increasingly called into play. Therefore I believe that an environmental study and a definite management plan should be in place before we act in any Preserve.

This project is special because it is located in Los Osos, part of the Pacific Flyway with a National Estuary. Unfortunately nature is already stressed here due to the recent and ongoing loss of many trees and bushes due to natural causes such as the pine pitch canker and the myoporum thrip. We have added the manmade effects of development and now the landscaping and groundwater changes due to the installation of our sewer. Sweet Springs Nature Preserve is an oasis which needs to be protected.

Nature is also being stressed in the preserve. Expansive areas are undergoing change in both Central and East Sweet Springs in our efforts to turn the clock backwards. Until the new plants, initially separated by barren ground, are fully developed and interwoven,

they do not function as a complete ecosystem. The effects of our changes are far reaching: a single example is when we remove the brush that mice and lizards hide in, we are also removing the food source for the owls that we enjoy seeing in the Eucalyptus and Cypress trees.

I realize that this permit is for public access which will physically affect just the center of Sweet Springs East and may not seem invasive for Nature, except for the effect of an increase number of people using this area. BUT **what is missing from this permitting process is the effects on the understory and smaller trees which do not require a permit to remove.** Had this property been approached in a unified manner and not just based on labels of native and non-native lifeforms, but instead on how nature has adapted to our interferences, we might have decided to respect the nature that exists now. When this permit is issued, I would like to see words which will have this property evaluated as a whole and contain guidance for the parts which are not presently protected by the law.

To remove the understory which consists of native and non-native plants interwoven, the wildlife that it supports and the young trees is to change the course of the future. The joy of hearing birds overhead within these towering trees will be gone forever as the older trees die. And since we are not certain of the outcome of what is already planted, it could be unwise to eliminate the rest.

Three good questions to ask:

1. At what point is it a working ecosystem?
2. What percent of the land has or had non-native vegetation?
3. At what point are we no longer preserving, but destroying?

Again, **I am requesting that within the issuance of this permit there is a requirement stating that Sweet Springs will be evaluated as a whole, active eco-system and contain "guidance" for the parts of nature which are not presently protected by the law, so that there is the least destruction of nature possible.**

I have included some pictures to help us keep perspective.

Thank you for considering my request,

Marie Smith

Los Osos resident and user of Sweet Springs Nature Preserve for 30 years

picture from Google Earth



picture of East Sweet Springs from Ramona - new plantings on right side



picture of East Sweet Springs from Central Sweet Springs, Ramona is on right
notice the large area yet to be planted



new plantings: they need time to develop into a whole, interwoven working eco-system

area under trees, notice the variety of interwoven habitats



